Road connectivity to places of cultural heritage

†2911. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are places of cultural heritage of world level in the country which are still not connected with road and Government are considering to link these places of cultural heritage with road very soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made with regard to the action taken/to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Development and maintenance of roads other than National Highways is a State subject. However, the Ministry of Tourism has recommended to the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and State Governments to consider connecting World Heritage Sites and Buddhist sites with appropriate and good roads.

Public-private participation in tourism

2912. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to encourage public-private participation in tourism;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce "visa-on-arrival" and "inner-line border permits" to boost tourism; and

(d) if so, the details of the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) In order to encourage Public-Private Participation in tourism, the Ministry of Tourism has introduced a scheme during the Tenth Plan—'Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects' under which it offers assistance up to 25% of the project cost or Rs. 10 crore whichever is less for the projects like convention centres, golf courses, tourist trains etc. Another scheme called 'Incentives to Accommodation Infrastructure' provides one time capital grant of upto 10% of the total principal loan taken for construction of one, two and three star category of hotels.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism supports relaxation of Inner line permits and also introduction of 'Visa-on-arrival' for selected countries.

Rationalisation of tax structure on Hotels from Tourism point of view

†2913. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have suggested to the States to make the taxes to be imposed on hotels rational with a view to provide facilities to the tourists;

(b) if so, the State which were given such suggestions together with the dates and the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the concerned States on the suggestions of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The matter regarding rationalisation of taxes by the State Governments/Union Territories on hotels and other tourism industry was discussed in the recent State Tourism Ministers Conference held on 4th and 5th March, 2005 in New Delhi. It was recognised that Tourism is a major driver of economic growth and employment generation. It was, therefore, passed in the Resolution that the States would work towards rationality and uniformity of taxes so as to make their destination competitive. It was agreed that this would lead to increase in tourist arrivals and generate higher revenues. The States would also explore the possibility of drawing up a model uniform taxation regime in each zone.

Promotion of rural tourism

2914. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned funds to Tamil Nadu to develop

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.